

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for filtering electronic mail, comprising:
 2. receiving, in a data processing system, an electronic mail message;
 3. determining if the electronic mail message includes an intro-word;
 4. delivering the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message includes the intro-word;
 5. and
 6. storing the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message does not include the intro-word.
1. 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the intro-word is located in a subject line of the electronic mail message.
1. 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering the electronic mail message if the email address of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized sender list.
1. 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering the electronic mail message if the domain name of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized domain list.
1. 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the electronic mail message does not include the intro-word, then sending a confirmation message to the sender of the electronic mail message.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a response mail message corresponding to the
3 confirmation message;
4 delivering the electronic mail message if the response
5 mail message includes the intro-word; and
6 storing the electronic mail message if the response
7 mail message does not include the intro-word.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a response corresponding to the confirmation
3 message via an internet connection;
4 delivering the electronic mail message if the response
5 includes the intro-word; and
6 storing the electronic mail message if the response
7 does not include the intro-word.

1 8. The method of claim 5, further comprising sending an
2 obscured image of the intro-word to the sender.

1 9. The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the
2 intro-word to the sender in a non-machine-readable
3 form.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting the
2 stored electronic mail message after a predetermined
3 amount of time.

- 1 11. A data processing system having at least a processor
- 2 and accessible memory, comprising:
- 3 means for receiving, in the data processing system, an
- 4 electronic mail message;
- 5 means for determining if the electronic mail message
- 6 includes an intro-word;
- 7 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
- 8 the electronic mail message includes the intro-
- 9 word; and
- 10 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
- 11 electronic mail message does not include the
- 12 intro-word.
- 1 12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the
- 2 intro-word is located in a subject line of the
- 3 electronic mail message.
- 1 13. The data processing system of claim 11, further means
- 2 for comprising delivering the electronic mail message
- 3 if the email address of a sender of the electronic
- 4 mail message is on an authorized sender list.
- 1 14. The data processing system of claim 11, further
- 2 comprising means for delivering the electronic mail
- 3 message if the domain name of a sender of the
- 4 electronic mail message is on an authorized domain
- 5 list.

1 15. The data processing system of claim 11, further
2 comprising means for sending a confirmation message to
3 the sender of the electronic mail message if the
4 electronic mail message does not include the intro-
5 word.

1 16. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving a response mail message
4 corresponding to the confirmation message;
5 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
6 the response mail message includes the intro-
7 word; and
8 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
9 response mail message does not include the intro-
10 word.

1 17. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising:
3 means for receiving a response corresponding to the
4 confirmation message via an internet connection;
5 means for delivering the electronic mail message if
6 the response includes the intro-word; and
7 means for storing the electronic mail message if the
8 response does not include the intro-word.

1 18. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising means for sending an obscured image of the
3 intro-word to the sender.

1 19. The data processing system of claim 15, further
2 comprising means for sending the intro-word to the
3 sender in a non-machine-readable form.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 11, further
2 comprising means for deleting the stored electronic
3 mail message after a predetermined amount of time.

- 1 21. A computer program product tangibly embodied in a
2 machine-readable medium, comprising:
3 instructions for receiving, in a data processing
4 system, an electronic mail message;
5 instructions for determining if the electronic mail
6 message includes an intro-word;
7 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
8 message if the electronic mail message includes
9 the intro-word; and
10 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
11 if the electronic mail message does not include
12 the intro-word.
- 1 22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the
2 intro-word is located in a subject line of the
3 electronic mail message.
- 1 23. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for delivering the electronic
3 mail message if the email address of a sender of the
4 electronic mail message is on an authorized sender
5 list.
- 1 24. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for delivering the electronic
3 mail message if the domain name of a sender of the
4 electronic mail message is on an authorized domain
5 list.

1 25. The computer program product of claim 21, further
2 comprising instructions for sending a confirmation
3 message to the sender of the electronic mail message
4 if the electronic mail message does not include the
5 intro-word.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions for receiving a response mail message
4 corresponding to the confirmation message;
5 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
6 message if the response mail message includes the
7 intro-word; and
8 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
9 if the response mail message does not include the
10 intro-word.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising:
3 instructions for receiving a response corresponding to
4 the confirmation message via an internet
5 connection;
6 instructions for delivering the electronic mail
7 message if the response includes the intro-word;
8 and
9 instructions for storing the electronic mail message
10 if the response does not include the intro-word.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 25, further
2 comprising instructions for sending an obscured image
3 of the intro-word to the sender.

- 1 29. The computer program product of claim 25, further
- 2 comprising instructions for sending the intro-word to
- 3 the sender in a non-machine-readable form.

- 1 30. The computer program product of claim 21, further
- 2 comprising instructions for deleting the stored
- 3 electronic mail message after a predetermined amount
- 4 of time.